

Serial No.: 09/867,058

Attorney Docket No.: 98P7511US01

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, Claims 1-20 and 27 and 28 are pending. Claims 1, 13, 14, and 27 have been amended to more overcome the Section 112 rejection.

Claims 1, 13-14, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. The claims have been amended for greater clarity and improved antecedent basis. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claims 1-12, 17-20, and 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Mohler, U.S. Patent No. 5,506,872 ("Mohler"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single, prior reference. Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Mohler.

In particular, as discussed in Response to the previous Official Action, an aspect of the present invention is to provide notification to the user of status changes with regard to the user's mailbox. Such status changes can include, for example, whether the mailbox can accept new messages. The system serially sends a notification message or messages of such a status to preprogrammed coordinates, serially using different media formats (i.e., media blending), if necessary. For example, the notification may be provided by a flashing light, facsimile, pager message, or e-mail.

Thus, the claims recite "wherein said one or more notification messages are sent to a subsequent one of the plurality of locations if said one or more notification messages have not been received at a previous one of the plurality of locations" and "wherein said one or more notification messages are sent across multiple user-specified media."

In contrast, as discussed in response to the previous Official Action, Mohler merely provides that a user can specify a message and an "out-calling" number, which apparently may be "cascaded, so that a whole sequence of numbers

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SEP 09 2008

Serial No.: 09/867,058

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is contacted in series until a call actually gets through." However, Mohler does not provide for, or even hint at, a capability of serially sending a plurality of notification messages over a plurality of media, i.e., in different media formats, as generally recited in the claims at issue.

Indeed, while "[t]he targets for out-calling messages could be a plurality of messaging systems, for example, fax, voice, electronic mail, paging, etc.," Mohler contains no hint that that these may be cascaded. Only telephone numbers can apparently be cascaded, not plurality of media, as recited in the claims at issue. Since Mohler does not reference such serial messaging, there can be no anticipation.

As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims.

Claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Mohler. For reasons similar to those discussed above, applicants believe these claims, too, are allowable.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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